

## AMENDMENTS OT THE CLAIMS

### Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A viscoelastic composition comprising ~~an aqueous solution having a minimum of about 0.01%w/v and a maximum of about 20%w/v~~ of a viscoelastic polymer comprising:

a mixture of hyaluronic acid and/or salts thereof and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, wherein the concentration of hyaluronic acid and/or salts thereof is a minimum of about 0.1%w/v and a maximum of about 6%w/v and the concentration of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose is a minimum of about 0.05%w/v and a maximum of about 5%w/v, based upon the total volume of the viscoelastic composition;  
and further having

tris[hydroxymethyl]aminomethane at a maximum of about 50mM and a minimum of about 0.1mM based upon the total weight of the viscoelastic composition; and a hexahydric alcohol.

Claims 2. – 5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The composition of claim ~~[[5]] 1,~~ wherein the ~~polyol~~ hexahydric alcohol is mannitol.

7. (currently amended) The composition of claim ~~[[5]] 1,~~ wherein the ~~polyol~~ hexahydric alcohol is sorbitol.

8. (currently amended) The composition of claim ~~[[3]] 1,~~ wherein the concentration of the ~~polyol~~ hexahydric alcohol is a minimum of ~~about 0.1%w/v~~ 1%w/v and a maximum of ~~about 15%w/v~~ 6%w/v based upon the total volume of the viscoelastic composition.

9. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of tris[hydroxymethyl]aminomethane is a minimum of about 0.5mM and a maximum of about 30mM.

10. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the ratio of the viscosity of the viscoelastic composition to the viscosity of a comparable viscoelastic composition having no ~~polyol~~ hexahydric alcohol and tris[hydroxymethyl]aminomethane is a minimum of about 1 and a maximum of about 2.5.

11. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the ~~percentage of quenching is~~ composition possesses a minimum quenching of about 45% as quantified by a TBA-MDA complex.

Claims 12. – 14. (canceled)

15. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the viscoelastic polymer comprises alginate.

16. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 15, wherein the concentration of alginate is a minimum of about 0.05%w/v and a maximum of about 9%w/v based upon the volume of the viscoelastic composition.

17. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 15, wherein the average molecular weight of the alginate composition of yet minimum of about 50 kD and a maximum of about 5,000 kD.

Claims 18. – 19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The composition of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 1, wherein the average molecular weight of the hyaluronic acid and/or salts thereof composition of yet minimum of about 500 kD and a maximum of about 5000 kD.

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the average molecular weight of the hydroxypropylmethylcellulose composition is a minimum of about 10 kD and a maximum of about 120 kD.

Claims 23. - 24. (canceled)

25. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the osmolality of the viscoelastic composition is a minimum of about 200mOsmol/Kg and a maximum of about 400mOsmol/Kg.

26. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the zero-shear viscosity of the viscoelastic composition is a minimum of about  $6 \cdot 10^4$  cps and a maximum of about  $4 \cdot 10^6$  cps.

27. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the high-shear viscosity of the viscoelastic composition is a minimum of about 500 cps and a maximum of about 2000 cps.

28. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the pH of the viscoelastic composition is a minimum of about 5 and a maximum of about 8.

Claims 29. - 46. (canceled)

47. (new) A viscoelastic composition comprising:  
a viscoelastic polymer comprising a mixture of hyaluronic acid and/or salts thereof and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, wherein the concentration of hyaluronic acid and/or salts thereof is a minimum of 0.1%w/v and a maximum of 6%w/v and the concentration of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose is a minimum of 0.05%w/v and a maximum of 5%w/v, based upon the total volume of the viscoelastic composition;

tris[hydroxymethyl]aminomethane at a maximum of about 50mM and a minimum of about 0.1mM based upon the total weight of the viscoelastic composition; and

a hexahydric alcohol selected from mannitol or sorbitol;

said viscoelastic composition having a zero-shear viscosity from  $6 \cdot 10^4$  cps to  $4 \cdot 10^6$  cps, and a high-shear viscosity from 500 cps to 2000 cps.